Road Accidents on National Highways in Gujarat

1750. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of road accidents on National Highways in Gujarat is perpetually increasing;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the month-wise number of accidents during last ten months vis-a-vis corresponding period during the year 1994 which occured at Ahmedabad, Rajkot and other parts in the State;

(c) the details of the loss of property and number of persons killed or wounded in these accidents;

(d) whether specific steps have been taken/proposed to be taken to check the increasing number of road accidents on Ahmedabad-Rajkot National Highway; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Smuggling of Indian currency by Pakistan

1751. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 359 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th July, 1996 and state:

(a) whether Pakistan has smuggled a huge amount of Indian currency into India for funding its agents as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 25th May, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any step in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (d) Intances of circulation of counterfeit currency in some parts of the country, particularly North-East, Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab have come to notice. The Government is alive to the new threat posed by anti-national elements and appropriate measures are being taken to thwart their designs. All State Government and concerned agencies of the Central Government have been suitably alerted and sensitised to keep a close-watch on the situation.

Modernisation of Post Offices in Almora District

1752. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Post Offices in Almora district have not been developed, modernised and upgraded so far;

(b) if so, the details therefor;

(c) the present strength of staff in Basot and Taya Post Offices in Almora district and since when these Post Offices have been functioning;

(d) the steps being taken to modernise and upgrade them; and

(e) the details of investments by depositor in these Post Offices as on date, Post Office-wise alongwith the details of dead accounts in each Post Office?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In accordance with the Department's programmes of development and modernisation, upgraded operational equipments such as weighing scales and franking machines are in use in important post offices in Almora District. New articles of furniture have also been supplied in the past few years to some post offices in the district.